

EDITORIAL

HAIL PINELLAS.

There was merit in that Pinellas County proposition. I did not have much to say while the bill was pending, because it was a local issue.

Now that its passage is assured, I may say my little say. Some time ago I said as a general proposition, I thought favorably of the creation of new counties.

The people of Pinellas had an array of figures that could not be disputed.

They presented a claim for county creation that was too strong to resist, and so the bill passed the House, which in this case is equivalent to its enactment.

It is understood by the Pinellas promoters that Senator Crane has declared himself ready to pass the bill through the Senate if it passed the House.

In matters of this kind that incorporate but none the less powerful substance known as "Senatorial courtesy" will be sufficient to enact the bill creating a county of Pinellas. An enterprising people are these Pinellas Peninsulars, judging by the sample they sent to Tallahassee. They have a citizenship in that favored section that is bound to make the new county take the front rank from the start, and push the other counties for first place at the finish.

Doubly favored is this fair peninsula. Richly endowed by nature, it has attracted a citizenship second in intelligence, energy, enterprise and patriotism to none and superior to most.

A long life and a happy one to the new county of Pinellas.

Its representatives have fought a good fight and the victory perched on the banner deserving it.

There was very little or no feeling engendered in this fight, and what little there was will soon disappear, and the old county of Hillsborough and the new county of Pinellas will soon be engaged in a new contest, this time a friendly one, to decide which one shall take superior rank in material development and happiness for its people.

JUSTICE TO COUNTY CONVICTS.

The bill introduced by Senator Adams, providing for the proper care and protection of county convicts, has passed the Senate.

The same bill has been introduced in the House by Mr. Kirkland of Lake.

There is prospect, therefore, that this bill will soon become a law.

It is legislation that is badly needed.

All of the odium cast upon the State of Florida by the tales of brutality to convicts arose from improper supervision of county convict camps.

In every case investigation has shown that the State convicts camps are kept in excellent condition, but the county camps as a rule have been slovenly kept and their inmates frequently inhumanely used.

This bill of Senator Adams and Representative Kirkland provides that the State of Florida shall control all county prisoners, and makes it the duty of the Commissioner of Agriculture to require the State Convict Inspectors to visit the county camps.

There is no doubt that great injustice has been done county prisoners by the lessees. It was the duty of no one to keep a perfect record of the date of the commencement of the sentence of these offenders, and it has been the rule, rather than the exception, to force them to serve many days beyond the time for which they were sentenced.

This bill will cure that, as it makes it the duty of the Commissioner of Agriculture to keep a record of county convict sentences, and to issue orders for the discharge of county prisoners, just as he does now for State prisoners.

The object of all punishment should be to prevent crime by proper restraint of those who commit it, and never to inflict vengeance.

Every care should be exercised to prevent prisoners from being inhumanely used or imposed upon by greedy contractors.

Prisoners are wards of the State, and the Adams-Kirkland bill will protect them.

It should be enacted.

BY THE WAY

What matter if the cause be just and Reason right?
What boots it if a many-throated cry doth sound?
In vain does Justice speak when Money Might
Enslaves the People's Cause Prometheus bound.

Look you into the halls where laws are wrought—
Count you the sentient figures seated there—
Reflect if chattel they—if sold or bought—
Or swayed by sight of power or threat, or prayer.

Will never Time produce—enweared grown—
With brain and soul of Lilliputian mould—
A race with Heart to have and Thought to own
And one to spurn for better things the lust for gold?
J. H. R.

The House Committee on Constitutional Amendments was yesterday granted a clerk through the request of the chairman, Mr. Clarke, of Jefferson. At the beginning of the session this committee was denied a clerk, but the chairman yesterday repeated the request and showed that his committee had a number of important bills to consider. The request was granted.

Colonel Nat Walker yesterday indulged in that subtle and secret joy known only to the speak-easy lobbyist, when he knew that House Bill No. 49 had passed the Senate and was ready for the signature of the Governor. The bill provides that nobody who does not pay taxes to the State in some form shall be permitted to shoot game of any kind. "This shuts out the nigger and the muzzle-loader," said Col. Nat, on the side between readings.

Mr. DuPont's bill to protect food fish from needless destruction passed in the House yesterday. Mr. DuPont urged the passage of the bill in a few words and in the plain blunt way which has come to be a well known characteristic of him. After referring to the wanton destruction of fish by soulless fishermen, Mr. DuPont concluded his appeal with this ultra-logical peroration: "Anything which can be prevented ought to be good." It may be that some of the members failed to absorb the meat of this sentence, but at any rate the bill did pass, and that is what the gentleman from St. Johns desired.

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